

7 bottom surface of the seat cushion, wherein the air flow
8 [path] channel [having] has an inlet adjacent the bottom
9 surface of the seat cushion for receiving temperature
10 conditioned air therein, and further [having] has an outlet
11 adjacent the top surface of the seat cushion for dispensing
12 temperature conditioned air therefrom; and [with an integral
13 plurality of air channels proximate an outer surface of the
14 support member; the outer surface of the support member
15 connecting to]

16 a porous member which substantially covers the [outer] top
17 surface area of the [support member] seat cushion[, the porous
18 member having an interface with the integral plurality of air
19 channels]; and

20 a seat covering substantially encapsulating the porous member
21 to the [support member] seat cushion.

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2. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 [support member] seat cushion comprises a fiberglass reinforced
3 plastic.

1 3. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 [support member] seat cushion comprises a foam.

1 4. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 [support member] seat cushion comprises a cellular spongy material.

1 5. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 porous member comprises;

3 a first porous member that is disposed adjacent and
4 substantially covers the top surface of the seat cushion; and

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cont

5 a second porous member[, the outer surface of the support
6 member connecting to the first porous member which substantially
7 covers the outer surface area of the support member, the first
8 porous member having an interface with the integral plurality of
9 air channels; and the second porous member] substantially
10 encapsulating the first porous member.

1 32. (Amended) Apparatus for selectively varying the
2 environmental temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

3 a [cellular spongy material cushion forming a] support member
4 in the seat formed from a resilient material, wherein the support
5 member includes: [having]

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6 an integral air flow [path] channel that extends through
7 the support member from a bottom surface to a top surface of
8 the support member, the air flow [path] channel having an
9 inlet at the bottom surface of the support member for
10 receiving temperature conditioned air therein, and further
11 having an outlet at the top surface of the support member for
12 dispensing temperature conditioned air therefrom; and [with]

13 [an integral plurality of] at least one air [channels]
14 subchannel integral with and extending along [proximate an
15 outer] a top surface of the [cushion] support member, wherein
16 the air subchannel is connected with the outlet of the air
17 flow channel; and

18 [the outer surface of the cushion connecting to]
19 a porous member [reticulated foam] which substantially covers
20 the [outer] top surface area of the [cushion] support member, the
21 [reticulated foam] porous member having an interface with the
22 [integral plurality of] air [channels] subchannel; and

23 [an air permeable] a seat [covering] cover that substantially
24 [encapsulating] encapsulates the [reticulated foam] porous member
to the [cushion] support member.

(Please add new claims 40-47 as follows:)

40. An apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising at
least one air subchannel that is integral with and extends along
the top surface of the seat cushion, wherein the air subchannel is
connected with the outlet of the air flow channel, and wherein the
porous member is contact with the air subchannel.--

-- 41. An apparatus as defined in claim 40 further comprising an
air manifold integral with and extending along the top surface of
the seat cushion, wherein the air manifold is interposed between
the outlet of the air flow channel and the air subchannel to
facilitate the distribution of temperature conditioned air
therebetween.--

-- 42. An apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein the porous
member comprises;

a first porous member that is disposed adjacent and
substantially covers the top surface of the support member; and

a second porous member substantially encapsulating the first
porous member.--

43. Apparatus for selectively varying the environmental
temperature of a vehicle seat comprising:

a support member in the seat in the form of a resilient
cushion, wherein the support member includes:

5 an air flow channel integral with the support member and
6 extending therethrough from a bottom surface to a top surface
7 of the support member, wherein the air flow channel has an
8 inlet at the bottom surface for receiving temperature
9 conditioned air, and an outlet at the top surface for
10 dispensing temperature conditioned air;

11 at least one air subchannel integral with and extending
12 along the top surface of the support member; and

13 an air manifold integral with and extending along the top
14 outer surface of the support member between the air flow
15 channel outlet and the air subchannel for dispersing
16 temperature conditioned air from the air flow channel to the
17 air subchannel; and

18 a flexible porous member disposed over the top surface of the
19 support member and having an interface with the air subchannel; and

20 a flexible seat cover substantially encapsulating an outer
21 surface of the flexible porous member.--

1 -- ~~64~~⁵. The apparatus as recited in claim ~~43~~⁵ wherein the
2 resilient cushion can be selected from the group of materials
3 consisting of cellular spongy material, foam, and fiberglass
4 reinforced plastic.--

1 -- ~~745~~⁵. The apparatus as recited in claim ~~43~~⁵ wherein the flexible
2 porous member comprises:

3 a first porous member substantially covering the top surface
4 of the support member and having an interface with the air
5 subchannels; and

6 a second porous member substantially encapsulating the first
7 porous member.--

1 -- ~~46~~⁸. A method for selectively varying the environmental
2 temperature of a vehicle seat comprising the steps of:

3 routing temperature conditioned air from an air inlet to an
4 air outlet of an air flow channel extending through a support
5 member of the seat;

6 distributing temperature conditioned air from the air outlet
7 along a top surface of the support member through at least one air
8 subchannel disposed within the top surface;

9 passing temperature conditioned air from the air subchannels
10 through a porous member disposed adjacent the outer surface, and
11 then to a seat covering disposed adjacent the porous member.--

1 -- ~~47~~⁹⁹. A method as recited in claim ~~46~~⁸ wherein the temperature
2 conditioned air is routed from a bottom surface of the support
3 member to a top surface of the support member.--